

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01867 151611Z

66

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 SS-15 L-01 NSC-05 AGR-05 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 XMB-02 SP-02 DRC-01 /055 W

----- 127732

R 151435Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8753

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1867

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, BEXP, BU, OVIP (POPOV, IVAN)

SUBJECT: POPOV VISIT IN RETROSPECT

REF: A) STATE 213262; B) STATE 223853; C) SOFIA 1821

1. DEPUTY PREMIER POPOV INVITED ME TO HIS OFFICE OCT 14 FOR DETAILED DEBRIEFING OF HIS VISIT. LUKANOV, ISHPEKOV AND GERASSIMOV WERE ALSO PRESENT ON HIS SIDE. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY POLECON OFFICER LEE. REPORT ON WHAT POPOV SAID ABOUT VISITS WITH INDIVIDUAL BANKS AND BUSINESS FIRMS FOLLOWS BY MEMCON. THIS MESSAGE IS ON OVERALL IMPRESSIONS AND PENDING POLICY QUESTIONS OR OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

2. POPOV SAID IT WAS THE VIEW OF HIS DELEGATION, WHICH HE HAD REPORTED TO THE CABINET AND TO ZHIVKOV PERSONALLY, THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN "PRODUCTIVE WITH VERY GOOD RESULTS". THIS REPORT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND HE WAS CHARGED WITH SETTING UP AND EXECUTING A FOLLOW-THROUGH PROGRAM. ON CERTAIN MATTERS, NOTABLY MFN AND THE PENDING AGREEMENTS, INITIATIVE WILL NOW HAVE TO COME FROM THE US SIDE.

3. THE ONLY TASK WHICH HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL, POPOV SAID, WAS TO CONVEY THE LETTER FROM ZHIVKOV TO THE PRESIDENT. "WE WERE FOLLOWING THE EVENTS DAILY, WE KNOW HOW BUSY HE WAS WITH HIS WIFE'S OPERATION AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 01867 151611Z

THE CONFERENCES WHICH HE WAS CONVENING. WE OF COURSE

UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE EXPLANATIONS WE WERE GIVEN, BUT I MUST SAY THAT IT STILL LEAVES SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH US". (NOTE THIS QUALIFIES SOMEWHAT WHAT WAS REPORTED REF C.)

4. OFFICIAL PORTION OF VISIT (SEPT 23/25) WAS WELL ORGANIZED AND REGARDED AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. POPOV AGAIN VOICED HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR COURTESIES AND WARM CORDIALITY OF SECRETARY DENT. HE ALSO WAS ELOQUENT IN HIS ADMIRATION OF SECRETARY BUTZ (SEPTEL) WHOM HE HOPES TO WELCOME IN BULGARIA. HE WAS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE AFTER ALL FOR HIM TO HAVE A TALK WITH CHAIRMAN CASEY. HE CAME AWAY FROM WASHINGTON VISIT WITH IMPRESSION THAT ALL HIS INTERLOCUTORS AGREED WITH BULGARIAN DELEGATION THAT EXPORT CONTROLS SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE SINCE THEY CURRENTLY INCLUDE OBSOLETE ITEMS. HE SAID (AND THIS INCLUDES HIS PRIVATE VISITS) THAT "ALL BANKERS CONSIDERED BULGARIA A STABLE AND INTERESTING PARTNER", AND HE OBVIOUSLY HAS HIGH HOPES FOR EXIM CREDITS INDEPENDENT OF TIMING OF MFN ELIGIBILITY.

5. POPOV ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MOVING FORWARD IN ACTIVATING THE US-BULGARIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT SIGNED SEPT 24 BETWEEN US AND BULGARIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE; AND HE SAID BULGARIANS WOULD APPOINT THEIR MEMBERS SOON. HE APPRECIATED THE FINE WORDS SPOKEN AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY BY SECRETARY DENT AND MR. BOOTH ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF US-BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. (IMPLICATION: LET ACTIONS NOW FOLLOW THESE WORDS.)

6. ON ESTABLISHMENT OF BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO, POPOV SAID GOB HAS IN MIND ONLY ONE OR TWO-MAN OPERATIONS WHICH WOULD SAVE CONSIDERABLE TRAVELING AND FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH FIRMS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO BULGARIA. I TOOK OCCASION TO REFER TO REMARK WHICH LUKANOV MADE WHILE IN STATE DEPT SEPT 23, THAT HE "WOULD WELCOME STRENGTHENING OF US EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL SECTION," AND SAID BEFORE THIS COULD EVEN BE CONSIDERED WE WOULD NEED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SOFIA 01867 151611Z

ASSISTANCE IN BREAKING LOGJAM WITH RESPECT TO HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHICH IS HANDICAPPING OUR OPERATIONS. ALSO REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT RAISING THE MATTER FORMALLY, SOME OF THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE IN BULGARIA (FOR INSTANCE INHIBITING TRAVEL ON THE DIRECT ROAD FROM SOFIA TO INDUSTRIAL CENTER RUSE) SEEM VEXATIOUS REMNANTS OF THE COLD WAR AND DID NOT FACILITATE REPORTING ON ECONOMIC

MATTERS.

7. POPOV EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR SATELLITE MAPS ON GEOLOGY OF BULGARIA SENT TO HIM BY SECRETARY DENT AND LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE REMAINDER. "ON THE BASIS OF THESE PICTURES WE CAN DISCUSS (PROJECTS INVOLVING AMERICAN BUSINESS) IN MORE DETAIL AND THE RISK IS REDUCED".

8. GENERAL MOOD. THE WARMTH THAT I HAD NOTED WHEN POPOV RETURNED TO SOFIA (REF C) WAS STILL IN EVIDENCE. I COMPLIMENTED HIM ON HIS ADROIT AND INFORMATIVE REPLY AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB TO QUESTION ABOUT BULGARIAN "INTEGRATION" WITH THE USSR; HE WAS FULL OF COMPLIMENTS ABOUT ALL US OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH HIS VISIT. MOST POIGNANT WAS HIS OFF-THE-RECORD FINAL REMARK THAT WHAT IMPRESSED HIM MOST IN THE US WAS THE "DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT" THAT PREVAILS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION REGARDLESS OF THEIR STATUS IN THE HIERARCHY. WE BULGARIANS HAVE MUCH TO LEARN IN THAT RESPECT, HE SAID.

HERZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA01867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-0203
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741046/aaaabniq.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 213262; B) STATE 223853; C)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPOV VISIT IN RETROSPECT
TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, BEXP, OVIP, BU, (POPOV, IVAN)
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005